

Media consolidation has become a huge problem in this country. I don't know if the legislators who voted to deregulate the media in the 1990's believed that it would lead to several large monopolies running the US media. Fox news should be called "Reporting Our Opinion". I do not feel that any of the mainstream media are providing a balanced outlook on the current US economy, war or health insurance crisis.

In the 1970's, any single one of these issues would have lead to independent journalists investigations (note the use of plural). I cannot believe that there is not an independent prosecutor investigating the ties between Halliburton and the current US administration.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.